AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) In a distributed computing environment, a method for distributing peripheral device operational metrics information, the method comprising:

receiving, by an ~~first~~ imaging device, a command to perform an imaging operation;

responsive to receiving the command, performing, by the ~~first~~ imaging device, the imaging operation; and

responsive to performing the imaging operation, communicating, by the ~~first~~ imaging device, metrics information corresponding to the imaging operation to a second device;

receiving, at the second device, a request from a third device to access the metrics information; and

responsive to receiving the request, providing access to the metrics information to the third device without the third device communicating with the ~~first~~ imaging device.

2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metrics information comprises page count and print media type information.

3. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metrics information is not directly solicited from the ~~first~~ imaging device by the second or third device.

4. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metrics information comprises toner utilization information.

5. (Currently amended) In a distributed computing environment, a computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions for distributing peripheral device metrics information, the computer-executable instructions comprising instructions for:

receiving, by a~~n~~ ~~first~~ imaging device, a command to perform an imaging operation;

performing, by the ~~first~~ imaging device, the imaging operation; and

responsive to performing the imaging operation, communicating, by the ~~first~~ imaging device, metrics information corresponding to the imaging operation to a second device for access by an application on a third device, such that the application on the third device can access the metrics information without forwarding any request for the metrics information to the ~~first~~ imaging device.

6. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 5, wherein the metrics information comprises page count and print media type information.

7. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 5, wherein the metrics information is not directly solicited from the ~~first~~ imaging device by the second or third device.

8. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 5, wherein the metrics information comprises toner utilization information.

9. (Currently amended) An imaging device comprising:

a memory comprising computer-executable instructions for distributing metrics information corresponding to imaging operations;

a processor that is operatively coupled to the memory, the processor being configured to fetch and execute the computer-executable instructions from the memory, the computer-executable instructions comprising instructions for:

receiving, by a firstthe imaging device, a command to perform an imaging operation;

performing, by the first imaging device, the imaging operation; and

responsive to performing the imaging operation, communicating, by the first imaging device, metrics information corresponding to the imaging operation to a second device for access by an application on a third device, such that the application on the third device can access the metrics information without forwarding any request for the metrics information to the first imaging device.

10. (Original) An imaging device as recited in claim 9, wherein the metrics information comprises page count and print media type information.

11. (Currently amended) An imaging device as recited in claim 9, wherein the metrics information is not directly solicited from the first imaging device by the second or third device.

12. (Currently amended) An imaging device method as recited in claim 9, wherein the metrics information comprises toner utilization information.

13-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) In a distributed computing environment, a computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions for providing real-time imaging metrics information, the computer-executable instructions comprising instructions for:

receiving, at a server device, imaging operational metrics corresponding to an imaging operation, the imaging operation having been performed by an imaging device;

receiving, at the server device, a request from an application program for at least a portion of the imaging operational metrics, the application program executing on another device different from the imaging device and the server device; and

communicating the at least a portion of the imaging operational metrics from the server device to the application program.

20. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 19, wherein the metrics information comprises page count and/or print media type information.

21. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 19, wherein the metrics information comprises toner utilization information.

22. (Previously presented) A server comprising:

a memory comprising computer-executable instructions for providing real-time imaging metrics information;

a processor that is operatively coupled to the memory, the processor being configured to fetch and execute the computer-executable instructions from the memory, the computer-executable instructions comprising instructions for:

receiving, at the server, an unsolicited set of imaging operational metrics corresponding to an imaging operation, the imaging operation having been performed by an imaging device;

receiving, at the server, a request from an application program for at least a portion of the imaging operational metrics, the application program executing on another device different from the imaging device and the server; and

communicating the at least a portion of the imaging operational metrics to the application program.

23. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the request from the third device to access the metrics information is a registration request to automatically receive the metrics information whenever the metrics information is updated, and wherein the providing access to the metrics information to the third device includes the second device communicating

the metrics information to the third device when the ~~first~~ imaging device communicates updated metrics information to the second device.

24-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) <u>In a distributed computing environment, a method for providing real-time imaging metrics information, the method comprising:</u>

<u>receiving, at a server device, imaging metrics corresponding to an imaging operation, the imaging operation having been performed by an imaging device; and</u>

<u>responsive to receiving the imaging metrics, automatically communicating the at least a portion of the imaging metrics to an order processing utility</u>~~A method as recited in claim 13~~, wherein the order processing utility is located at other than the imaging device and the server device.

28. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 5, wherein the application is at least one of a billing utility or an order processing utility.

29. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 19, wherein the communicating is performed automatically without the application program polling or querying the server device.

30. (Previously presented) A server as recited in claim 22, wherein the request from the application program is a registration request, and wherein the communicating is performed automatically without the application program polling or querying the server device.

31. (Currently amended) <u>In a distributed computing environment, a method for providing real-time imaging metrics information, the method</u> ~~A method as recited in claim 17, further~~ comprising:

<u>receiving, at a server device, imaging metrics corresponding to an imaging operation, the imaging operation having been performed by an imaging device;</u>

receiving a registration request from the billing utility; ~~and~~

responsive to the registration request, configuring the server device to automatically communicate the at least a portion of the imaging ~~device operational~~ metrics to the billing utility<u>;</u> <u>and</u>

<u>responsive to receiving the imaging metrics, automatically communicating at least a portion of the imaging metrics to the billing utility.</u>